

# NATIONAL FORENSIC LEAGUE

*Giving Youth a Voice Since 1925*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### PRESIDENT

William Woods Tate, Jr.  
Tennessee

### VICE PRESIDENT

Don Crabtree  
Missouri

### DIRECTORS

Kandi King  
Texas

Pam Cady Wycoff  
Minnesota

Tommy Lindsey, Jr.  
California

Pamela K. McComas  
Kansas

Timothy E. Sheaff  
Iowa

Bro. Kevin Dalmasse, FSC  
Pennsylvania

David Huston  
Texas

James W. Rye, III  
Alabama (Alternate)

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

J. Scott Wunn

June 13, 2011

Dear Media Professional,

Thank you for your interest in the 2011 LFG / NFL National Speech & Debate Tournament! As the largest academic competition in the world, our event marks the capstone experience for thousands of students from across the nation and as far away as China. Here you will find breathtaking performances from some of the most talented and intelligent teenage performers in the nation.

The enclosed materials provide background information about our organization and event. For your convenience, our schedule of events and a press release about the tournament is included. If you have further questions, I invite you to visit our official national tournament website, *NFLnationals.org*, where you will also find ongoing coverage and updated results throughout the week. I am also available to answer any questions you may have.

Please enjoy your time at the 2011 LFG / NFL National Speech & Debate Tournament. If we can do anything to help, please let me know.

Sincerely,

**Deano Pape**, National Tournament Media Relations

Email: [deano.pape@nationalforensicleague.org](mailto:deano.pape@nationalforensicleague.org)

Phone: 920-229-8233

**Shona Huffman**, National Tournament Media Relations

Email: [nfldallasnationals@gmail.com](mailto:nfldallasnationals@gmail.com)

Phone: 469-789-6860

**Jenny Corum Billman**, Director of Member Services

Email: [jenny.billman@nationalforensicleague.org](mailto:jenny.billman@nationalforensicleague.org)

Phone: 920-748-6206



NATIONAL OFFICE • 125 WATSON STREET • PO BOX 38 • RIPON, WI 54971-0038

(p) 920.748.6206 • (f) 920.748.9478 • [nfl@nflonline.org](mailto:nfl@nflonline.org)

[www.nflonline.org](http://www.nflonline.org)



**NATIONAL FORENSIC LEAGUE**  
Speech and Debate Honor Society  
**Press Release**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

## **World's Largest Academic Event in Dallas June 13-18**

*Dallas, TX - [June 13, 2011]*

The 2011 The Lincoln Financial Group / National Forensic League National Speech & Debate Tournament will be held in Dallas, TX, June 13-18, 2011. Students will travel to Dallas from across the country and as far away as China. 2011 will mark the NFL's first return to Dallas since the 2006 NFL National Tournament.

To attend, students must place among the top competitors at one of NFL's 107 district tournaments. Qualifiers will compete for more than \$200,000 in college scholarships in one of eleven main events—Policy Debate, Public Forum Debate, Lincoln Douglas Debate, Congressional Debate-House, Congressional Debate-Senate, Original Oratory, United States Extemporaneous Speaking, International Extemporaneous Speaking, Humorous Interpretation, Dramatic Interpretation, and Duo Interpretation—as well as seven consolation and supplemental events.

### **About the National Forensic League**

The National Forensic League (NFL) is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit honorary society created to recognize high school students in speech and debate. The NFL is the oldest and largest interscholastic forensic organization. More than 112,000 high school and middle school students, representing more than 2,800 high schools and nearly 100 middle schools, are currently building their communication, leadership, cognitive, and presentational skills as members.

Since 1925, more than 1.3 million students have found their voice in the NFL. Prominent alumni include media visionaries Oprah Winfrey and Ted Turner; Academy Award Winners Mark Boal, Patricia Neal, and Renee Zellweger; Emmy award winners Kelsey Grammar and Shelley Long; Supreme Court Justices Stephen Breyer and Sonia Sotomayor; and C-SPAN founder Brian Lamb. For more information about our organization, objectives, history, or alumni, please visit [NFLonline.org](http://NFLonline.org).

### **Economic Impact**

Previous city hosts have estimated the economic impact of the LFG / NFL National Speech & Debate Tournament at \$7.3 million. Tournament guests are expected to generate as many as 12,000 room nights for Dallas hotels.



**NATIONAL FORENSIC LEAGUE**  
Speech and Debate Honor Society  
**Press Release**



### **Tournament Logistics**

Roughly 95% of the 5,000 attendees will travel from outside the Dallas area, with approximately 60% of the attendees arriving by air and 4% driving. The heaviest arrival date is Sunday, June 12, and the heaviest departure date is Sunday, June 19.

Attendees will be housed at hotels throughout the city, with the highest concentration at the tournament hotel, the Sheraton Dallas Hotel. Competition will occur at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel & Conference Center beginning Tuesday, June 14, and concluding Saturday, June 18.

### **Special Events**

The NFL National Tournament Vending Expo will be held June 13, 2011, at the Sheraton Dallas Hotel & Conference Center. Exhibits will be open 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Exhibitors include a number of colleges and universities, scholastic organizations, forensic vendors, and more.

The Coach Diamond Ceremony and Hall of Fame Induction will be held at 6 p.m. on Friday, June 17. The National Tournament Awards Assembly will be held at 5 p.m. on Saturday, June 18.

Each of these events are free and open to the public.

### **CONTACTS:**

**Deano Pape**, National Tournament Media Relations

Email: [deano.pape@nationalforensicleague.org](mailto:deano.pape@nationalforensicleague.org)

Phone: 920-229-8233

**Shona Huffman**, National Tournament Media Relations

Email: [nfdallasnationals@gmail.com](mailto:nfdallasnationals@gmail.com)

Phone: 469-789-6860

**Jenny Corum Billman**, Director of Member Services

Email: [jenny.billman@nationalforensicleague.org](mailto:jenny.billman@nationalforensicleague.org)

Phone: 920-748-6206

**National Forensic League**  
125 Watson Street | PO Box 38  
Ripon, WI 54971  
Phone: 920-748-6206  
Fax: 920-748-9478

###



## Schedule of Events

**ALL EVENTS ARE IN THE SHERATON DALLAS HOTEL & CONFERENCE CENTER UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED.**

### **Monday, June 13, 2011**

National Tournament Registration – 8 a.m.  
NFL Vending Expo – 8 a.m.

### **Tuesday, June 14, 2011**

Preliminary Competition Begins

### **Wednesday, June 15, 2011**

Preliminary Competition Continues  
2011 Host Party

### **Thursday, June 16, 2011**

Elimination Rounds Begin  
Supplemental Event Competition Begins

### **Friday, June 17, 2011**

Final Rounds of Interpretation Events  
Consolation Event Competition Begins  
Final Session of Congressional Debate  
Diamond Coach Assembly

### **Saturday, June 18, 2011**

Final Rounds of Debate Events  
Final Rounds of Public Address Events  
Final Rounds of Supplemental and Consolation Events  
National Tournament Awards Assembly – 5 p.m.

## **Contact Us**

**Deano Pape**, National Tournament Media Relations

Email: [deano.pape@nationalforensicleague.org](mailto:deano.pape@nationalforensicleague.org)

Phone: 920-229-8233

**Shona Huffman**, National Tournament Media Relations

Email: [nfldallasnationals@gmail.com](mailto:nfldallasnationals@gmail.com)

Phone: 469-789-6860

**Jenny Corum Billman**, Director of Member Services

Email: [jenny.billman@nationalforensicleague.org](mailto:jenny.billman@nationalforensicleague.org)

Phone: 920-748-6206



## Background Information

The National Forensic League (NFL) is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit honorary society created to promote and support high school speech and debate. The NFL is the oldest and largest interscholastic forensic organization. This year, more than 112,000 students, representing more than 2,800 high schools and nearly 100 middle schools, built their communication, leadership, cognitive, and presentational skills as members.

### The NFL Mission

We promote high school and middle school speech and debate activities as a means to develop a student's essential life skills and values. Our vision is for every child in the United States to become an effective communicator, ethical individual, critical thinker, and leader in a democratic society.

### About the LFG / NFL National Speech & Debate Tournament

The Lincoln Financial Group / National Forensic League National Speech & Debate Tournament is the largest academic competition in the world. To attend, students must place among the top competitors at one of NFL's 107 district tournaments. Qualifiers to the national tournament compete for more than \$200,000 in college scholarships in one of eleven main events—Policy Debate, Public Forum Debate, Lincoln Douglas Debate, Congressional Debate-House, Congressional Debate-Senate, Original Oratory, United States Extemporaneous Speaking, International Extemporaneous Speaking, Humorous Interpretation, Dramatic Interpretation, and Duo Interpretation—as well as seven consolation and supplemental events.

### Benefits of Speech and Debate Education

Research has proven that speech and debate education dramatically impacts students. Forensics increases standardized test scores, improves graduation and retention rates, and boosts critical thinking and communication skills. Forensic education offers unique benefits to both gifted and at-risk populations by allowing students to work at their own pace. Because forensics has been shown to make an appreciable difference in students' education, the NFL is committed to ensuring that every student has the opportunity to participate. For more information about the unmatched benefits of forensic education, please visit our white papers at <http://www.NFLonline.org/AboutNFL/Advocate>.

### Our Alumni

Since 1925, more than 1.3 million students have found their voice in the NFL. These communicators have become the leaders in business, government, education, law, and entertainment. For a list of prominent alumni, please visit <http://www.NFLonline.org/Rostrum/Personalities>.

### Contact Us

**Deano Pape**, National Tournament Media Relations

Email: [deano.pape@nationalforensicleague.org](mailto:deano.pape@nationalforensicleague.org)

Phone: 920-229-8233

**Shona Huffman**, National Tournament Media Relations

Email: [nfldallasnationals@gmail.com](mailto:nfldallasnationals@gmail.com)

Phone: 469-789-6860

**Jenny Corum Billman**, Director of Member Services

Email: [jenny.billman@nationalforensicleague.org](mailto:jenny.billman@nationalforensicleague.org)

Phone: 920-748-6206



## Frequently Asked Questions about the NFL

### How important is this tournament?

The Lincoln Financial Group / National Forensic League National Speech & Debate Tournament is the world's largest academic event. Students who attend will have the distinction of being among the top communicators in the nation. At the tournament, they will compete for more than \$200,000 in scholarships. They will also be seen by the nation's top collegiate speech and debate coaches, and may secure a position on a college team based on their performance at the event.

### How much do students practice to qualify for nationals?

Depending on the event, each student's specific performance will have been rehearsed and refined anywhere from a couple of months to an entire year. Underclassmen often begin preparing for next season as soon as the national tournament concludes.

### How long has the tournament been going on?

The first NFL national tournament was held in 1931 at Ripon College, with 49 schools from 17 states competing. During World War II, national tournament competition ceased in all events except Congressional Debate, which continued at the request of the President Franklin D. Roosevelt. The full tournament resumed in 1947.

### Who are your alumni?

NFL alumni are leaders in business, government, education, law, and entertainment. Well-known alumni include Senators Richard Lugar, Russ Feingold, and William Frist; media visionaries Ted Turner and Oprah Winfrey; Academy Award winners Patricia Neal, Don Ameche, and Renee Zellweger; Emmy award winners Kelsey Grammar and Shelley Long; news anchor Jane Pauley; C-SPAN founder Brian Lamb; and Supreme Court Justices Stephen Breyer and Sonia Sotomayor. For a more complete list of alumni, along with several of their stories, please visit <http://www.NFLonline.org/Rostrum/Personalities>.

### Can anyone attend national tournament events?

Yes, anyone may attend national tournament events. Final rounds, held on the last two days of competition, are popular events for competitors and the public alike. The national tournament awards assembly, to be held on Saturday, June 18, 2011, is also a popular event.

### More questions?

**Deano Pape**, National Tournament Media Relations

Email: [deano.pape@nationalforensicleague.org](mailto:deano.pape@nationalforensicleague.org)

Phone: 920-229-8233

**Shona Huffman**, National Tournament Media Relations

Email: [nfldallasnationals@gmail.com](mailto:nfldallasnationals@gmail.com)

Phone: 469-789-6860

**Jenny Corum Billman**, Director of Member Services

Email: [jenny.billman@nationalforensicleague.org](mailto:jenny.billman@nationalforensicleague.org)

Phone: 920-748-6206

